

**LETTER TO PARENTS
NONPRICING
SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We are pleased to inform you that all children attending _____ will receive meals at no charge during school year _____, unless otherwise notified. Providing meals to children is a growing challenge and requires our taking advantage of all available funding resources. One of these resources is the reimbursement program for free and reduced-price meal benefits from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

So that we can keep our costs low and provide excellent food service for children, we need some information for USDA reimbursement purposes. Your cooperation is appreciated. If your household income is at or below the level shown on the enclosed scale, please answer all questions on the attached income application form. An income application that does not contain the requested information cannot be processed by the school.

If you are currently receiving Food Stamps or CA benefits, a *Free Meals Program Letter* **will not be mailed to you**. The School/District now has access to a Direct Certification System and is able to verify households receiving DES benefits. These children will be automatically qualified to receive free meals. The School/District will notify the household of the child's free meal benefits. If you are currently receiving FDPIR benefits, you will receive a letter indicating that you are certified to receive FDPIR. A copy of this letter may be obtained from your Indian Tribal Organization. If you wish for you child to receive free meal benefits, please submit a copy of this letter to your child's school. If you have not received a copy of this letter, complete the application with your child's name, FDPIR case number, and the signature of one adult household member.

INCOME CHART

Effective from July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005

Household Size	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Week</u>
1.....	\$17,224	\$1,436	\$332
2.....	23,107	1,926	445
3.....	28,990	2,416	558
4.....	34,873	2,907	671
5.....	40,756	3,397	784
6.....	46,639	3,887	897
7.....	52,522	4,377	1,011
8.....	58,405	4,868	1,124
For each additional family member add	+5,883	+491	+114

OTHER INFORMATION:

- **VERIFICATION:** Your eligibility may be checked by school officials at any time during the school year. You may be asked to submit information to support what was reported on the application.
- **CONFIDENTIALITY:** The information you give on the application will be used only for purposes of the meal program.
- **CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES:** If a child has been determined by a doctor to be handicapped and the handicap would prevent the child from eating the regular school meal, this school will make any substitutions prescribed by the doctor. If a substitution is needed, there will be no extra charge for the meal. If you believe your child needs substitutions because of a handicap, please contact us for further information.

"The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation (see below for definition, readers should be able to click on sexual orientation for the definition), and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

Application will be determined by _____

(Name/Title of Determining Official